

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF PEORIA
TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**



To whom it may concern:

January 26, 2023

It is my pleasure to recommend Nicole Mannen for McLean County young lawyer of the year.

Nicole started with Mclean County Public Defender's office in the summer of 2021 as a 7-11 and shortly thereafter passed the bar. I was impressed she was able to work and study for the bar exam at the same time. Since joining McLean County Public Defender's Office, Nicole has excelled in the traffic and misdemeanor court rooms. She handled day-to-day activities such as plea negotiations, motions, communication with court room personnel with class and professionalism.

I had the opportunity to second chair one of Nicole's first trials in case she needed assistance or had questions. It was quickly apparent that she did not need my help. Nicole knew the facts of her case, the questions she wanted to ask the witnesses and the theory she was conveying to the jury. She has a natural talent for trial work.

It is obvious to anyone who has interacted with Nicole that she knows the law... but it is her compassion for the vulnerable population which makes her stand out. In day-to-day conversation with Nicole, she is aware and sympathetic to the challenges Public Defender clients face. It is this compassion that makes Nicole an asset to the Public Defender's Office.

For the above reasons, it is my strong recommendation to select Nicole Mannen for McLean County young lawyer of the year. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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